India's position in the field of Information Sciences

@3801-B. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India lags behind other countries in the field of Information Sciences;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what remedial steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Yes. Sir, India lags behind developed countries like USA, UK, France, Germany and Japan in the field of Information Sciences. However, it is ahead of most developing countries and some developed countries.

(c) The main reasons therefor are the following:

(i) Lack of quality manpower in adequate number in the field of Information Science and Technology as compared to the growing demand.

(ii) Brain drain of quality manpower is the highest as developed countries are offering very high salaries to specialists in this field.

(iii) Lack of adequate investments in this area in the public sector and private sector as compared to more advanced countries.

(iv) The recessionary trend in the computer industry in India in step with similar worldwide trends.

(v) Inadequate R&D base in the country, as compared to more advanced countries.

(d) The Government has initiated or proposed to initiate the following remedial steps:

(i) Government has encouraged the setting up of computer communication networks like NICNET of the National Informatics Centre under the Planning Commission, INDONET under CMC Limited, Remote Area Business Management Network (RABMN) under the Department of Telecommunications, among others, as infrastructural support for the development of informatics and information sciences.

(ii) Research and development organisations like Centre for Development of Telematics (CDOT), Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CD AC), National Centre for Software Technology (NCST), etc., among others, have been set up and are being strengthened to bring the country to the forefront of selected areas of information sciences like Telematics, Daja Communication, Parallel Processing Computers, Advanced Software Tools, etc.

(iii) Encouragement has been given to the private sector for setting up software houses and software export.

(iv) Funds are being provided to the Universities and Institutes for manpower development in computer and information sciences and encourage private sector units to set up quality teaching institutions with quality upgradation being guided through Accreditation Schemes like DOEACC.

@Previously Unstarred Question 3281. transferred from 15th December, 1992.

(v) Research and Development in the field of information sciences is being promoted through funding by multiple agencies like Department of Electronics, National Informatics Centre, Department of Science & Technology & Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

(vi) Strengthen the National Informatics Centre to play a promotional and facilitating role in the growth of information sciences in an appropriate " direction.

Blood Cell abnormalities due to radiation

@3801-C. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the findings published in British Medical Council Reports to the effect that Low Dose Radiation continues to be linked to Blood Cell abnormalities;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Dr. Gafman of California (USA) has also earlier brought out similar results; and

(c) whether similar reports have also come from Dr. Padmanabham in respect of Indian Rare Earths in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir, Government is aware of the report in British Medical Journal by Dr. Gardner reporting a few cases of leukaemia amongst children adjoining the Sellafield Nuclear Facilities Site in the U.K. This has led to more extensive work and independent studies carried out in U.K. and Canada have-contradicted the Gardner's report.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

@Previously Unstarred Question 3377, transferred from 16th December, 1992.

Misappropriation of funds in Super Bazar drug store

@@3801-D. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a racket in Super Bazar drug store has been detected by misappropriating the funds under the Distributors Sales Promotion Scheme in connivance with the drug suppliers/ chemists/manufacturers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and to what extent the misappropriation of funds have been detected and the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

गुजरात में उर्वरकों की उपलब्धता

@@@3801-ड. श्री गोपालसिंह जी० सोलंकी: क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या गुजरात में यूरिया और सुपर फास्फेट की कोई भारी कमी है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) गुजरात में उर्वरकों की उपलब्धता को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाये गये हैं; और

(घ) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान वर्ष-वार गुजरात में उर्वरकों की मांग और पूर्ति की स्थिति क्या रही है?

@@Previously Unstarred Question 3388, transferred from 16th December, 1992.

@@@पूर्वतः अतारांकित प्रश्न 3819, 18 दिसम्बर, 1992 से स्थानान्तरित।